

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 27, 2008

The Honorable R. David Paulison
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Paulison:

We are writing to express our deep concern over the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) pending termination of an agreement with Katrina Aid Today (KAT), a consortium of nationally recognized non-profit disaster assistance organizations, to provide essential case management services for the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.


This grant agreement is set to expire on March 31, 2008, yet FEMA does not have any alternative in place to provide vital case management services to those individuals who continue to face challenges resulting from these tragedies. We find this situation to be particularly disturbing in light of the recent findings related to formaldehyde in FEMA trailers, because of which thousands of victims of these disasters will have a continuing need to find new disaster housing.

We also understand that FEMA and the Department of Health and Human Services have recently entered into a new interagency agreement to provide case management services and have awarded the case management contract to a single company. Your staff has communicated to Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure staff that this contract will only apply prospectively to future disasters and will not cover services for victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

We believe FEMA has sufficient statutory authority, and available resources, to continue to provide case management services for victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Therefore, we urge you to commit resources to ensure the uninterrupted delivery of case management services to those most in need of them.

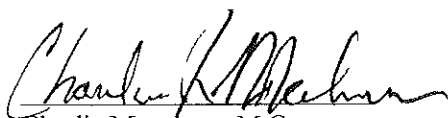
We look forward to working with you to resolve this urgent matter expeditiously.

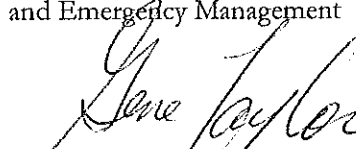
Sincerely,


James L. Oberstar, M.C.
Chairman, Committee on
Transportation and Infrastructure



Eleanor Holmes Norton, M.C.
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on
Economic Development, Public Buildings,
and Emergency Management


Charlie Menacon, M.C.


Gene Taylor, M.C.